

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

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Honorable Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and  
Procedure  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 7 June 1976 expressing concern as to the Agency's plans to destroy Agency material which has been under a moratorium imposed by the Senate leadership pending completion of the investigation of the Agency by the Senate Select Committee.

By letter of 2 June, I informed Senators Hugh Scott and Mike Mansfield of our plans to destroy Agency documents and materials and requested their confirmation of our intended action in view of the moratorium. This was done only as a preliminary step to destruction to determine if there is further congressional interest. I wish to make clear that it was never my intention to destroy any documents still subject to Justice Department investigation or relevant to litigation.

We have extended the moratorium for six months, to expire on 10 December 1976, as requested by the Senate leadership. Prior to the destruction of any records, we shall transmit to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence copies of the record schedules which are submitted to the National Archives and Record Service for their approval prior to the destruction of any records. The same will be done with respect to those routine administrative records which, although not involved under S. Res. 21, were withheld from routine destruction during the life of that Resolution.



You may also be assured that we will not destroy any Agency record holdings of interest to any pending Freedom of Information Act or Privacy Act requests. In regard to your support of pending legislation to require the Agency to notify individuals concerning whom we have information which is deemed to have been collected improperly, I must reaffirm my position as stated to the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights. Such notification would be unworkable as our information is incomplete and considerably outdated. Further, such an undertaking could be a further violation of the privacy of the individuals involved if mail is misdirected. The principal programs involved, mail intercept and CHAOS, involved passive collection and did not involve any Agency actions directed against specific individuals.

I appreciate your personal interest in the matter and trust that this letter satisfies your concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Bush

George Bush  
Director

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AT OLC:PLC:dla  (typed 14 June 1976)